

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 31 are now pending in the application. Claims 13-30 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 3, and 11-12 are herein amended. Claim 31 is added herein. Claim 10 is herein canceled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 through 6 and 8 through 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brant et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,741,945). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is initially noted Claim 1 has been amended to recite in part the limitations of Claim 10 and Claim 10 has been canceled rendering the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 10 moot. Claim 1 has been amended to recite in part:

“A unitary insulated wall for an aircraft”, and
“a second layer including a flexible material having an outer face defining a decorative pattern and an inner face attachable to the first layer, the inner face including a perimeter region, the first layer being attachable to the second layer only at the perimeter region”.

Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs [0024] and [0025] of the specification and Figure 2.

Brant et al. does not disclose an inner face having a perimeter region, the first layer being attachable to the second layer only at the perimeter region. Brant et al. therefore cannot anticipate amended Claim 1. The Examiner is respectfully requested to

withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 1. Because Claims 2-6 and 8-9 depend from Claim 1, Brant et al. cannot anticipate Claims 2-6 or 8-9 for at least the same reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claims 2-6 and 8-9.

It is also initially noted Claim 3 has been amended to recite in part:

“the fibrous glass material is circumferentially enclosable and containable within a polymeric film defining an insulation bag”.

Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0025] of the specification and Figure 3.

Brant et al. further does not anticipate amended Claim 3 for at least the following additional reason. Brant et al. does not disclose fibrous glass material which is circumferentially enclosed and containable within a polymeric film. Brant et al. therefore cannot anticipate amended Claim 3. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of Claim 3 for this additional reason.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brant et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,741,945) in view of Hill (U.S. Pat. No. 4,780,167). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In addition to the discussion above with respect to Brant et al., Hill appears to teach face sheets 10 and foam core 12 impregnated with a liquid polyimide precursor. See column 3, lines 27-31. After rolling to remove excess precursor, an impregnated

core 20 is placed between two impregnated face sheets 10 and this assembly is placed in an oven and preferably compressed. See column 4, line 64 to column 5, line 7. Hill does not teach or suggest bonding only at a perimeter region of the face sheets and foam core.

Neither of the references of Brant et al. or Hill teach or suggest an insulated wall for an aircraft having a second layer including a flexible material having an outer face defining a decorative pattern and an inner face attachable to the first layer, the inner face including a perimeter region, the first layer being attachable to the second layer only at the perimeter region. The suggested modification of Brant et al. and Hill therefore cannot render Claim 1 obvious. Because Claim 7 depends from Claim 1, the suggested modification of Brant et al. and Hill therefore cannot render Claim 7 obvious for at least the same reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 7.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,398,889) in view of Brant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,741,945). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is initially noted Claim 11 has been amended to recite in part:

“An insulated wall for an aircraft”, and
“a plurality of wall mounting fasteners each connectable at a fixing end to
only the first layer and each including a body extending completely
through only the first layer; and

each of the fasteners including a distal connecting end freely extending from the first layer in a direction facing away from the second layer, the distal connecting end operable to ~~connectably~~ fastenably join the wall to an aperture created in a frame cross member of the aircraft; wherein the wall is connectable to the aircraft such that the outer face of the second layer defines an innermost facing surface of the aircraft.

Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs [0024], [0030] and [0031] of the specification.

The Examiner stated “*White discloses a plurality of wall mounted fasteners 44 including a distal connecting end freely extending from the first layer 38.... The distal connecting ends operably connecting the wall to the platform.*” Applicants respectfully disagree with this conclusion.

White et al. teaches “each liner comprises a plurality of integral separating members 44 that physically separate the blanket from the inside surface of the skin.” See column 5, lines 11-14. Figure 2 clearly shows that separating members 44 do not fasten to skin 30. White further teaches “To achieve such condensate drainage the liners are installed within an aircraft with the separating members 44 oriented in a downwardly facing direction, moving from the end of the separating member contacting the blanket to the end of the separating member contacting the inside surface of the skin.” See column 5, lines 22-27.

White therefore teaches a separating member 44 that only contacts an aircraft skin, not wall mounted fasteners as defined by the Examiner. Separating members 44

do not fastenably join the wall to an aperture created in a frame cross member of the aircraft as recited in amended Claim 11.

Brant et al. does not teach or suggest fasteners each including a body extending completely through only the first layer or fasteners that fastenably join the wall to an aperture created in a frame cross member of the aircraft as recited in amended Claim 11.

The suggested modification of White et al. and Brant et al. therefore cannot render amended Claim 11 obvious. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 11. Because Claim 12 depends from Claim 11, the suggested modification of White et al. and Brant et al. cannot render Claim 12 obvious for at least the same reasons. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 12.

It is also initially noted Claim 12 has been amended to recite in part:

“each distal connecting end further comprises:
a flange abutting an exterior facing surface of the first layer; and
a releasable connection defining opposed bulbous ends.”

Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0030] of the specification.

Neither of the references of White et al. or Brant et al. teach or suggest a distal connecting end of a fastener having a flange abutting an exterior facing surface of the first layer, or a releasable connection defining opposed bulbous ends. The suggested modification of White et al. and Brant et al. therefore cannot render Claim 12 obvious for at least these additional reasons.

NEW CLAIM

Claim 31 has been added herein. Support for this Claim is provided in paragraph [0030] of the specification. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter new Claim 31.

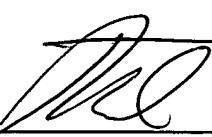
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 9, 2005

By:


Mark D. Elchuk, Reg. No. 33,686
Thomas J. Krul, Reg. No. 46,842

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDE/TJK/mmk